(b) if so, the details of discussion held and decision taken in the Conference; and

(c) the Government's reaction to the suggestions put forth in the Conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view (a) above.

Removing regulatory barriers to bring down per-minute cost

1664. SHRI VIJAYJ. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state

(a) whether India is divided into 23 different telecom service areas and further there are 322 long distance charging areas and 2643 as short distance charging areas;

(b) if so, does this not create complications in call charge calculations and deployment of extra man-power, thus ultimately subscriber being asked to pay; and

(c) whether a Concept Paper on 'One India' being considered for removing a number of regulatory barriers to bring down per-minute cost of providing telecom services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD), (a) As on today, India is divided in 22 Telecom Service Areas for providing Unified Access Services and Cellular Services. Further there are 322 Long Distance Charging Areas and 2647 Short Distance Charging Areas.

(b) No, Sir. It does not create complications in call charge calculations and deployment of extra man-power.

(c) Yes, Sir.